

worn individual but when it settled I was surprised to see that the background colour of the forewings, instead of the usual brown, was a chalky white while the hindwings were normal. Fortunately I was able to obtain a few photographs.

It seems to have been an intermediate form of ab. *leucodes* Lamb as shown under Fig. 24, Plate 8, of *Aberrations of British Butterflies* by A. D. A. Russwurm, (Classey 1978). — S. L. MEREDITH, 5 Rutlish Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3AL.

ISCHNOPSYLLUS SIMPLEX ROTHSCHILD (SIPHONAPTERA) IN SCOTLAND — A female *Ischnopsyllus simplex simplex* Rothschild has been taken from a Natterer's Bat, one of its normal hosts, found dead at Thornhill, Stirlingshire, in August 1986. This flea does not appear to have been recorded from Scotland before. Natterer's Bats are not regarded as common in Scotland though activities by local bat groups are proving it to be slightly more so than previously realised. This bat was found freshly dead and as it was still warm this particular flea had not yet vacated its host.

The upsurge of interest in the conservation and distribution of the Chiroptera in this, the National Bat Year, should produce a corresponding growth in new data concerning their parasites. However, disturbing or handling bats solely in order to remove or examine parasites should be discouraged. It would be illegal under the protective provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) to do so without a licence. Some acarines (mites) found on the same carcase and on that of a Daubenton's Bat brought into the museum earlier in the year remain as yet unidentified. — E. G. HANCOCK, Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG.

EUPITHECIA ABIETARIA GOEZE (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN N. W. KENT. — A fine female of this rare species attended my garden m.v. light on July 21st 1986. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent* 3, 1968-81) notes only three previous records for Kent, two of these being for N. W. Kent — Lee, 1861 and Gravesend, 1871 — the third being for E. Kent about 1925, while L. and K. Evans (*A Survey of the Macro-Lepidoptera of Croydon and N. E. Surrey*, 1973) lists one for Streatham, 15.vi.1957. Mature spruce plantations have never been a feature of this area, but mature ornamental conifers of many kinds abound and perhaps these have sustained this species at a low density. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

Current Literature

Country Life Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of Britain and Northern Europe By R. Gibbons. 144 pp. numerous colour illustrations. Country Life Books 1986. Boards £12.95 limp £7.95.

It is pleasing to record that the general awareness of Odonata